

SOUTH BAY TRS-80<sup>®</sup> USERS GROUP



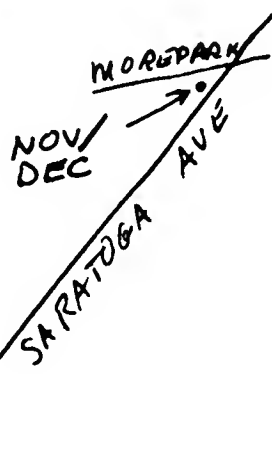
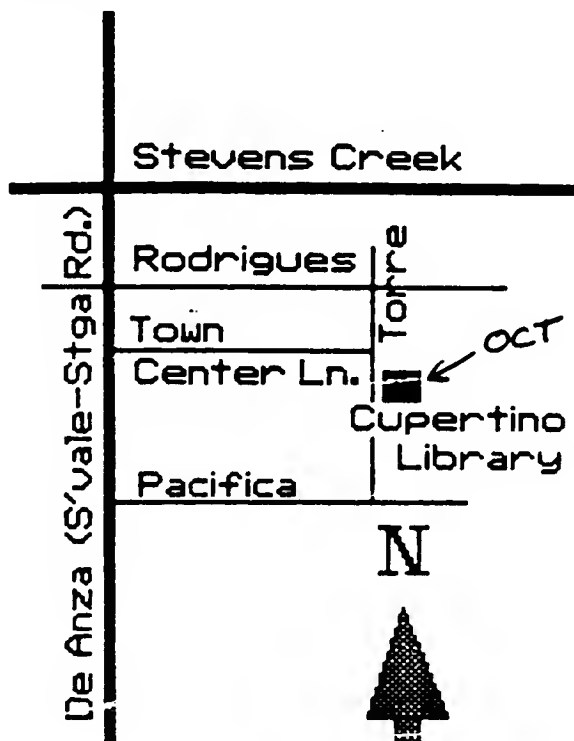
CONVENTS SEPTEMBER 28 & 29 1985

# DYNAMIC MEMORIES™

\* Tandy Corp / Radio Shack Inc

OCTOBER

1985





SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP

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**LOOK--PAY ATTENTION--**the next SBUG meeting will be held in as usual at the Cupertino Library. The address is 10400 Torree Ave.  
(October 15 th)

Time: 7:15 - 9:30 PM

The next 2 meetings will be held elsewhere on November 19 and December 17 at the Round Table Pizza Parlor, Moorepark and Saratoga Avenue (thats near 280 and the Saratoga Avenue exit). The editor will resume his conferencing for his peers, the semi-educated. Other speakers have not been announced, but like the voice from the burning bush, will undoubtedly miraculously appear.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**LOOKIOJOIREGARDEZ!!**Owing to the loss of the Dymon auditorium, we are still trying to revitalize the SIGS. Specifically, we wish to have a model 100 group, a CP/M group, and a MSDOS group. Gather your brethren around you and \*\*do your thing to get them going.

\*\*\*\*\*  
MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter "DYNAMIC MEMORIES", then send \$18 (check or money order) to the following address:

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group  
P.O. Box 60116  
Sunnyvale, Ca. 94088

or come to one of our meetings. If you also wish to communicate with our bulletin board system (SBUG-80) then include an additional \$25 (a one time fee) for an account on the system. You must be a member of SBUG to have an account on the system. Please include your address and phone number.

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**SOUTH BAY TRS-80 USERS GROUP**

**South Bay TRS-80 Users Group**

**Financial Statement**

**September 28, 1985**

	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Y-T-D</b>	<b>% Used</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>
<b>CASH RECEIPTS:</b>				
Dues: Sbug	90.00	1,377.00	76.5	1,800.00
Dues: Sbug-80	0.00	125.00	20	600.00
Interest				
Earned	2.65	30.25	75.9	40.00
Disk Library	0.00	105.00	87	120.00
Load 80	0.00	136	0.00	
Documentation	0.00	0.00	0	264.00
Tape Library	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
80 Micro	0.00	88.00		0.00
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>87.44</b>	<b>1,680.70</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>2,824.00</b>

**CASH DISBURSEMENTS:**

<b>Documentation</b>				
Library	0.00	0.00	0	80.00
Telephone	0.00	58.19	29	200.00
Electricity	0.00	80.00	33	240.00
Disk Library	0.007	214.97	71	300.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0	100.00
Postage	88.00*	118.00	28	500.00
Print / Copy	0.00	886.32	71	1,000.00
Bank charges	12.00	20.00	66.7	30.00
Post office box	0.00	26.00	50	52.00
Sbug80 Repairs	0.00	0.00	0	200.00
<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>1,403.48</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>
<b>Beg. cash bal.</b>	<b>518.49</b>	<b>229.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>229.27</b>
<b>Plus receipts</b>	<b>92.65</b>	<b>289.22</b>	<b>62.80</b>	<b>2824.00</b>
<b>Less Disbursements</b>				
	<b>12.00</b>	<b>1403.48</b>	<b>51.98</b>	<b>2700.00</b>
<b>End cash bal.</b>	<b>599.14</b>	<b>599.14</b>	<b>169.60</b>	<b>356.27</b>

OCTOBER

## FLOTSAM, JETSAM AND UNSUMMED

by Don Rhodes

I heerd that there was e netional convention of hackere. I hedn't heard about it until it was underway. Anyone else hear about it? I wonder whet came out of the convention. I suppose there will be a write-up on the convention.

Our aecond BBS, SBUG JR. was shut down thie month now the BBS #1 is up and running. I underatend that ell it needs now is e good telephone line. U###... etill not working.

### Disk Library

The SBUG disk library has most of the populer software peckeege by both Radio Sheck and other softwre vendore on disk. A hand-out sheet is eavleble lieting these programe. They mey be evalueted, but not copied.

In addition SBUG hee eubscribed to 80MICRO'S LOAD-80 disk program. These ere disk copiee of the programe thet epeer in 80MICRO. They are eavleable ae in the peragraph above.

From LOAD80 Oct85

1. (page 58) A file restoration program for the Model 4. If you killed e file or cen't rememberl the pessword, end went to reetore it to use.
2. (page 62) Aesign functions to the Model 4 function keys.
3. (page 76) Petch meker for the Model III. Thie is e text editor for writing BUILD files.
4. (page 106) TexEet85 for Multiplan eyeteme.

.....

Amonget the intereating programs in the disk library: LESCRIPT, a well reviewed word processor, TRSTOMS, e conversion program--TRS to MSDOS (or PCDOS), end LSR Leerning Associetee Speed Reeding Plus.

### Documentation Library

SBUG has copiee of softwre operating and user's manuals for most of the popular softwre programs for the Models I, III end 4 computers. We ere just beginning to obtain copiee of user manuale for some of the MSDOS programs.

### HARDDRIVE

Have you thought about getting a hard drive for your TRS80? Have you thought about getting out of bed tomorrow?

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A hard drive, depending on capacity, will provide storage for all, or most of your files and programs. You thus avoid the-- where did I put that floppy-- is this the one---, with the constant swapping of discs and the concomitant loss of time. With a MAIN menu, you'll be able to select the program, press a key, and have it ready to use in a second or two.

Typically an external harddrive system, including case, power supply and controller, will cost around \$500 on today's market. The cable and host adapter should be included.

Hard disk systems for the TRS80 are easy to install. Just plug in the cable to the bottom of the computer, plug in the power to the hard drive, and you are ready to format and use. The host adapter can be furnished as a part of the cable from the hard disk to the hard drive case. The hard disk controller is mounted inside the hard drive case. No need to worry about opening up the computer and installing anything.

INTERNAL hard drive systems the the TRS80 III and 4 (not 4P) are also possible, but modifications are required to increase the power supply and a cooling fan should be added.

The most common hard disk controller for the TRS80 is made by Western Digital, 14747 Artesia Blvd., La Mirada, Ca. 90638. You can write them for a copy of the "STORAGE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS HANDBOOK."

If you want the computer to boot up the hard drive automatically, then a special boot ROM chip would have to be added inside the computer case.

The next step is to pick the DOS. For the Model III, TRSDOS 1.3 does not support harddisk operation. The choices are LDOS, DOSPLUS, and NEWDOS80. In the case of the Model 4, TRSDOS 6.xx may be added to the list.

In choosing a DOS, one should take into account the following features: flexibility in formatting, availability of conventional DOS commands (DIR, FORMAT, COPY, etc), the ability to configure physical and logical drives, head offset, cylinder offset, partitioning, ability to backup the harddrive and to recover the backed up files.

The ability to manually format the harddrive into separate partitions allows the use of different DOSes in the partitions. This allows the reformatting of one partition without having to reformat others in case there is a problem preventing use of the partition (disk crash or BAD FAT).

### DOSPLUS 3.5 Hard Drive Configuration.

```
$00 :4 Hard,Fix,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=6,PD=0,Co=100,H0=0,TS=32
$01 :5 Hard,Fix,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=6,PD=0,CO=100,H0=1,TS=32
$02 :6 Hard,Fix,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=6,PD=0,CO= 0,H0=0,TS=32
$03 :7,Hard,Fix,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=6,PD=0,CO= 0,H0=1,TS=32
$04 :8,Hard,Fix,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=6,PD=0,CO= 0,H0=2,TS=32
$05 :9,Hard,Fix,Size=5,Side=1, Step=6,PD=0,CO=200,H0=0,TS=32
```

\$06 :0,Floppy,Dden,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=3,PD=0,MD  
\$07 :1,Floppy,Dden,Size=5,Sides=1,Step=3,PD=0,MD

Reference: 80MICRO, October, "Running Hard" pp45

WHAT'S NEW IN COMPUTING

As reported in the San Jose Mercury News, this last Sunday, the new standard for file storage will be changed from 5 1/4 inch floppies to the new 3 1/2 inch disk. IBM was quoted as discontinuing its 5 1/4 production upon completing the builds for the current requirements. According to research by Sony, the market is waiting for IBM to make the move. I wonder what Tandy has in mind? They don't presently have any 3 1/2 drives.

Well, I won't hold my breath for IBM to make the change, and I'm not going to sell my 5 1/4 drives, at least for a year or two. I would think that a 5 1/4 inch user would have to have both sizes for a while after the new standard is set, in order to convert software from one size to another

\*\*\*\*Editor's note: The venerable 8 inchers are still with us. If you plan on living to 2050, you will probably still be able to get the 5 inchers.

I see that Apple's Macintosh now has a video to computer storage capability added by an outside supplier..at least in the development stages. Soon you will be able to convert those drawings or photos to computer storage for further modifications or graphics margining. Apple is a real contender for small CAD operations with this option.

I also saw an ad in the paper that says that a certain company is selling IBM clones for \$895 including dual drives, 640K, keyboard and monitor. I just purchased one configured like this with a daisy-wheel printer for \$1475. Oh well, I guess I should have waited just one more day to buy. The prices are dropping every week.

Looking for a portable MSDOS machine? Take a look at the Panasonic Sr. Partner for \$1599. It has 512K, dual drives, graphics, color and a built in printer. One library is ranting this machine...somewhere back east.

The hottest new graphics software package is "THE NEWSROOM" for MSDOS machines. Now you can do newsletters, margining text and graphics. I'm looking forward to reviewing this one! I should have a copy within two weeks. \$29.95 from Springboard Software, 7807 Creekridge Circle, Minneapolis, MN. 55435, Tel. 800-328-1223. (Ref: 80MICRO October, pp 59)

Tandy has debuted the new Model 4D according to the article in 80MICRO, October issue. See page 21. The price is \$1199 and supports

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double sided drives and a new TRSDOS 6.2.1 (or maybe 6.3). We'll know, as soon as all the bugs are worked out.

ZBASIC from Zedcor promises to be faster than Turbo Pascal. It's an interpreter, while regular basic is interpretive. 800-453-4100. \$89.95.

I received 3 pages stapled together with the heading: "September 1985 Tandy User Group Newsletter". It's issued by Ed Juge, director of market planning, 1700 Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX, 76102.

GTE Telenet introduces the PC Pursuit. Our club received a letter from GTE Telenet Communications inviting us to subscribe. The service provides unlimited evening and weekend access to nationwide phone numbers through the Telenet public data network at a flat \$25.00 per month. Sounds to me like something worth while for our club to subscribe to for the use of all our members. Any one of us, by using the club's account, could call all those BBS's, and other off-network computer hosts around the nation -- all for the \$25 fee.

Shuttle Communicator (TM) offers a device for \$69.95 that interfaces a PC with "Softcast (SM)" radio stations that are broadcasting software over the public airways. It connects to the radio and to your computer. They also offer a device at \$124.95 for interfacing to Cable TV channels that are broadcasting computer software over the CATV cable coming into our homes. The latter to our club includes a list of radio stations nationwide that transmit these SM signals.

\*\*\*\*\*

Keep the editor posted of new things. Send to BBS!!! or to DYNAMIC MEMORIES editor by stealth or pony express.

Helpful hint for PRINT@ basic programming; instead of calculating the PRINT@ location, put this at the beginning of your program.

```
DIM L(15):L(0)=0:FOR J=1 TO 15:L(J-1)+64:NEST
```

Thus when a PRINT@ statement is required, write it this way:

```
PRINT@L(13)+32 (same as PRINT@832)
```

#### FOR SALE

Memory expansion board for the Tandy 1000, 384K ready to go. Call Jim Gonsolves at (408) 241-9947

#### NEEDED

Host Program for MSDOS computer which will allow DOS commands from dial-up remote. Call Don Rhodes (408) 996-1008.

Graphics program for MSDOS to provide custom designed business forms to be printed on dot matrix and laser printers. Write SBUG c/o Editor or call Don Rhodes at (408) 996-1008.



## THE EDITOR SPEAKS!!!

Having vacated my vacation I approach the membership humbly, hat in hand (I bought a hat in Europe specially so I could do that--European hats are much better for the purpose). This, your October newsletter is a little late, but you don't mind, do you? Love me or leave me..

I have not seen it, but those who have leave no doubt that the AMIGA is the most stunning computer on the market. The pundits (only the first 3 letters of that word apply to me) say that it lacks software, that it is not a business computer, that at \$2000.00 fully configured it has no niche in the market place. What experts do best is to make expert mistakes. AMICA has an interface that allows it to run MSDOS software. That, I think, will be its salvation, and will hold it until specially written software becomes available. My prediction is that we'll be hearing a lot from AMIGA.

## NEW CLUTTER ON THE EDITOR'S DESK

I ordered the 256K memory board for my Model 4 today. The price is \$229 bare (no chips). My dream is to have PRONTO, SUPERLOC4 (see below), and ALLWRITE's print processing commands in memory simultaneously. Currently I have PRONTO using the memdisk. When I go to the print commands from ALLWRITE, they have to grind off the disk. When you're writing short letters, or addressing a stack of envelopes, a lot of time is lost.

PRONTO takes a little getting used to, but I now have a list of telephone numbers that I can call directly through the modem, I have a tickler (reminder) file, and I am using the >card< function to capture those brilliant, evanescent thoughts we so often find we have lost when the time comes to use them. The calender function saves trips to the wall, and the calculator saves time as well.

I ordered 3 programs today. That's to make up for all the ordering I didn't do while I was on vacation. I was having withdrawal symptoms, and dreaming about updates to SUPERUTILITY.

THE CREATOR from TNT software goes quite a ways back with me. First I ordered it for my Model III. Just as I was learning it (in my slow way), I sold my Model III. Because of certain code differences, it wouldn't run on the Model 4. Then I got it for CP/M. Somehow, CP/M and I don't get along, so I've never used it. Now there is a version for the Model 4. I feel that I may at last master creation. Well anyway, the CREATOR.

There is an update to AIDS+. (AIDS+2) AIDSPLUS has no peer amongst all the programs I have worked with. It is written in machine language, so it is very fast, it is well thought out, it is easy, and it keeps the user from making errors. I don't know what the update will do for me that the present program doesn't already do, but I have to see it. AIDS+ only limitation has been the number of records it will keep--about 300 depending on field size. \$49.00 for the upgrade.

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SUPERLOG4 got rather a poor review in 80MICRO. Now it has a good one in COMPUTER SHOPPER. Because of the type of organization, and the fact that it works out of memory something like PRONTO, I'm too curious to pass it up. Basically, it can be used as a free form file keeper from which information may be retrieved to be used in a word processor, or possibly other programs. The reviewer in COMPUTER SHOPPER is a teacher, and uses it for lesson plans.

The poor review in 80MICRO could be explained by it's being the type of program it is. The company that sells it is based in Mississippi, not exactly a hot bed of software. Ah-h-h, roses sometimes grow in curious places.

### ONCE AGAIN SBUG, or is it?

Ian Webb inquires if we should say SBUG to rest-- or perhaps he means that SBUG is dying a natural death, wasting away, emaciated, a shadow of the heavyweight champion it once was.

I don't think so. If the steering committee does its job, there is no reason why a phoenix should not arise. I think a metamorphosis is taking place. Many of the memberships are running MSDOS machines. Let's go with the flow. Let us grind all kinds of grist in our mill. Let us be a tower of Babel. Did I explain myself well?

One of the trends we are seeing is the translation of programs from one operating system to another. It wouldn't surprise me to be running Lotus 1-2-3 on my Model 4 six months from now.

The membership has shrunk. This is largely due to shifting currents in the industry, it is also due to certain lapses on the part of the leadership. Small is not necessarily all bad. In the small meetings we are holding now, more attention is paid to new members and to the less expert among us.

The best reply to Ian's plaintive question was contained in the message following his. It was from a hobbyist who said he needed SBUG and had only recently heard about us.

### LADY SOFTWARE AND THE PIRATE

This has been gone over so many times it might be thought there was nothing more to say. Not so. Most of the writing about this issue is repetitive and not very analytical. There are endless comparisons of software with books. It's a useless comparison and serves no purpose. Software is something new and cannot be compared with anything previous. The following excerpts are from an article in COMPUTER SHOPPER by a Hsl Nieburg. It is part one of a two part series.

### COPY PROTECTION AND PIRACY

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"Copy protection for software is the bugaboo of the industry. There is an inevitable collision between the property rights of the vendor and the convenience of the product to the buyer.....

"In addition, there is an unrelenting arms race between the latest copy protection schemes and the scheme breakers....."This copying utility can only be used by licensed user to backup licensed software." The disclaimer is there for the record, but who is to police the private activities of consenting adults?.....

".....In the case of proprietary copyrights, offense (that is illegal copying) clearly has the edge over defense. (copy protection)" EDITOR: What axe has done, axe can undo they used to say in Robin Hood's day.

Nieburg goes on to mention the suggestion (can they be serious) that worms be put in commercial software to destroy the programs if they are copied. He calls this highly questionable in law and downright immoral. Indeed, A deaf mute lawyer could win the case for the plaintiff.

"One of the most brazen methods of profiteering is represented by vendors who offer by mail 'returnable software'. A so-called restocking fee is charged for any returned packages, usually about 25 percent of the discount price. This is of course only a thinly-disguised method for inveigling people into stealing copies on their own while 'evaluating' the software.....

"This scam is more repugnant than individual privateering because it commercializes the process. It is on a par with international copyright infringement as practised in places like Hong Kong, where one can walk into a computer shop and openly buy any software package....."One of the saving graces of small scale piracy is that it is usually committed for the use of the pirates themselves; there is a coda of honor by which fellow-pirates trade or give away copies, rather than selling them.

"Now with multiuser licensing coming on strong, vendors are moving to heavier defensive schemes, contemplating a universal standard for expensive and awkward hardware lock-and-key systems.....

"Like the nuclear arms race, the whole thing begins to get costly, redundant, and ridiculous, and yet it continues.....

".....User groups are revolting.....The Microcomputer Managers Association of New York, representing 80 Fortune-500 companies has taken an aggressive stand against the "fusebox" add on proposed by Lotus and others as an industry wide standard.

"In response to the growing resentments out there, the vendors have been reversing themselves. Much new software, originally issued in a copy protected form, is being switched to unprotected. MicroPro (WORDSTAR etc) in February after only 10 weeks made one of the fastest turnarounds in history, removing all copy protection from their newest release, WORDSTAR 2000.....

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"Borland (SIDEKICK, TURBO PASCAL, etc. has given up its two-tiered scheme (higher cost for copyable versions). Many companies have proven both successful and profitable, like the original WORDSTAR, MULTIMATE, PERFECT WRITER, and so many others, in the absence of copy protection and with acknowledged widespread piracy. Microrim (CLOUT, R-BASE) in March 1985 announced that from now on it 'would depend on the integrity of their users.'

"A recent survey by Future Computing Inc. of Dallas indicated that for every legal copy in use there were two illegal ones, leading to the conclusion that piracy was denying the industry of more than half of its legitimate earnings!

"The vendors take the not unreasonable position that this scale of piracy can eventually destroy innovation, cutting of the life blood of development, namely the rightful expectation of a fair return on investment.....

"COPYWRIT, produced by Quaid Software Ltd., 45 Charles Street East, Toronto, Canada, (416-961-8243) is one of the two best selling copy protection breakers on the market. The other is COPYIPC (which includes special versions for the PC Jr. and the AT) produced and Marketed by Central Point Software Inc., 9700 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland, Or, (503-244-5782). These programs sell for about \$39 and in their latest editions, will break copy protection on at least 90 percent of all commercial software

"I have discovered another use for them: they make the AT high density (HD) driver completely compatible with PC 360K drives. IBM claims only upward compatibility. But I have found it possible to format disks at the lower density on the HD. Such disks can be read and written to on either model without the least problem, and the double density formats on both are completely exchangeable.....

".....

"Large scale organizations that make casual copying a way of life can be constrained by court actions such as that recently filed by MicroPro. Obviously, the use of unregistered software on the hard disk of major corporations and large institutions can be determined and legal settlements sought.

"Piracy for profit can be dealt with in the normal ways of civil and criminal law. Proving a case can be a subtle and difficult process, but that is true in all kinds of civil suits, and at least presents no extraordinary dilemmas.....

\*.....

\*.....This would permit the Justice Department to initiate its own cases and would permit the FBI to investigate charges against an alleged large-scale pirate.

\*To treat all cases of copying in this way would be a fundamental mistake. First, because such enforcement would only be possible in a police state. But this fact cannot be depended upon to deter attempts to apply such methods to all kinds of piracy.....

\*It is verboten in the industry to say a word in behalf of the pirate, but it needs to be spoken. Before looking for a solution to the problem of piracy, one must understand its true nature. It doesn't help to treat all cases alike. There are many kinds of pirates, some are harmless, others are a positive asset to the community. How can that be?

\*Just as hackers were the pioneers of the computer industry, so many software pirates are the unpaid salesmen and pilot-fish of software development and marketing. Some have called them 'the freedom riders' of the home computer era! That is, they are forcing the end to exorbitant profits and bringing software down to prices that will allow the legitimate commercial marketplace to operate more realistically for the benefit of all. In addition, they mainly copy the programs that are successful, that already have a strong commercial market and viable profit margins to permit continued investment in R & D. Few steal programs that nobody wants, which are doomed to failure anyway!

\*It is only common sense to surmise that most stolen copies do not compete directly with legitimate copies. Most people who need software and know what they want will buy it. They feel they need the whole package, including the advice and technical support of the local vendor, both before and after the sale.

\*Certainly some people do copy for their own use on home or small business computers. This is a group that does directly compete with legitimate sales. Although we lack actual numbers, personal observation suggest they are not a large number. Most such users are straight-shooters. In addition they may not know that software can be copied, or do not trust such copies, or fear for the consequences of having contraband in their homes and places of business, or do not know how to copy, or do not know anyone from whom to copy. ....

\*Most laws are self-enforcing. The nation could not survive if the only laws obeyed were those with concrete and prompt sanctions. This kind of piracy has slight or no social implications, because well advised copiers of this type copy only successful software that enjoys a strong registered clientele anyway and is not harmed. In fact, it may be helped, because the unauthorized users help to promote demand. They educate others and thus indirectly expand the authorized user base.

\*Nonbuyers are likely a much more significant group. These are people who may be using stolen software, but who would not be using it if they had to buy it. These may be termed 'opportunistic' pirates. If they

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could not get their hands on good commercial software, they would manage some other way. They might not use computers at all, or they might struggle along with public domain or freeware, or they might settle for cheaper and inferior commercial products that are more affordable.

"They generally stop acquiring and copying when they feel they have the best stuff for their own needs, and have learned to operate the programs comfortably. Like legitimate users, this group tends to be loyal to programs they have mastered, in which they have much of their data files already invested.....

".....Users love to proselytize their peers, raving about the comparative felicities of WORDSTAR over WORDPERFECT.

It is exactly this kind of sotto voce salesmanship which really creates demand and establishes a piece of software as preeminent in its field.....

"Hobbyists and collectors there are many. They only collect what they can steal, and their appetites are omnivorous and enormous. They want to collect everything there is, and they want to master every program's intricacies! They are no threat to the paid up user base of any vendor. Quite the contrary, they are the greatest asset the community can have. Buyer and seller alike profit from the unpaid status of these people. They become the local Gurus of computer software, the unpaid and inexhaustible technical support base that keeps the whole enterprise going.....

"When customers need help and advice, the salesmen turn to the hobbyists and collectors whom they know. When technical support is hard to get from the manufacturer, and it almost always is, the local Guru is right at hand and eager to be asked.....

The buccaneers of software are not the enemies of innovation and market stability. They have a valuable role to play. They continue to expand the market for all software and to socialize new users into a wider range of applications than would otherwise be available to them. In the long run, and the industry must watch the donut and not the hole, this will stimulate demand and enlarge the market. Efforts invested in stopping piracy would be better put into developing and testing new software."

END

EDITOR: I see only two points that are not covered in this excellent article. As regards the lone pirate, I know of some who have hundreds of programs. Girls just want to have fun. They just like to collect programs. Who's the loser?

As regards the law and the lone pirate, civil suits generally have to prove damages. If I am using WORDSTAR (pirated) for my personal use, how much may the company sue me for? What have they lost, aside from

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the sale of the program? Only a law such as Louisiana's, the equivalent of "Steal a program, go to jail" could really affect the common user, and that will be very difficult to enforce. Unenforceable laws create disrespect for the law.

The hypocrisy on both sides of the software fence is too thick to cut with a Wilkinson sword. (Stainless steel) The vendors rant about theft. Wozniak and Jobs used to be phone phreaks. I wonder if they ever paid the phone company what they ripped off it? The vendors cry enormous tears as they speak of earning a "fair return on investment". A fair return on investment is whatever you can gouge the public for.

The pirate users cry somewhat smaller tears (size limited by capacity) about the huge profits made by the vendors on the overpriced wares they sell. The truth is that they pirate programs because it's possible, not for any abstruse sense of justice.

There is some middle ground. A \$50.000 or \$60.00 program that requires documentation is apt to be purchased, simply because by the time it's copied, and the documentation is photocopied, almost \$50 worth of effort has gone into the acquisition. Better to pay the price, get the guarantee, and feel virtuous.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group  
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